

REMARKS

No new matter is added by the foregoing amendments to the claims. Written support for the amendments to Claims 1 and 13-16 can be found in Fig. 1 of the drawings and at page 4, line 20, to page 5, line 3 of the specification.

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-7 and 13-17

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-7 and 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. 101 on the basis that the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. In particular, the Examiner found the claims to be drawn to non-functional descriptive material.

The Applicant has amended Claims 1, 13, and 16, the independent claims of the group rejected to by the examiner. Claims 14 and 15 have also been amended to conform with Claim 13 as amended. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-7 and 13-17 as now presented are directed to statutory subject matter.

More specifically, the preamble of Claims 1, 13, and 16 have been amended to include the feature of a processor arrangement configured to receive as input a digital original image and to generate a plurality of screens or patterns for a halftone image. The screens or patterns, having the features as defined in the respective claims, are then used in the production of a coloured halftone image by the processor arrangement.

The amended claims now define an invention that clearly includes a functional interrelationship with a computer processing device. Specifically, the amended claims are directed to the transformation of a digital original image into a plurality of screens

or a pattern for the production of a coloured halftone image, where the transformation is carried out by the processor arrangement.

It is respectfully submitted that the above functional interrelationship is statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C 101. The functional interrelationship defined in the claims is analogous to the example provided in page 54 of Annex IV of the Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility as published by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. *1300 OG 142 (Nov. 22, 2005)*:

[A] computer that recognizes a particular grouping of musical notes read from memory and upon recognizing that particular sequence, causes another defined series of notes to be played, defines a functional interrelationship among that data and the computing processes performed when utilizing that data, and as such is statutory because it implements a statutory process.

In the present case, a particular digital original image is input to a processor arrangement, which causes a plurality of screens or patterns to be generated and used in the production of a halftone image. There is, therefore, a functional interrelationship between the input image and the processor arrangement that generates a plurality of screens or patterns utilising the input. As with the above-quoted example, the Applicant's claimed screen system as set forth in Claims 1 and 16 and the Applicant's claimed pattern generation system as set forth in Claim 13 define statutory subject matter.

Claims 2-7 depend from Claim 1 either directly or indirectly and therefore, are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1. Claims 14 and 15 depend from Claim 13 and Claim 17 depends from Claim 16. Therefore, Claims 14, 15, and 17 are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claims 13 and 16, respectively.

Application No. 09/936,530
Docket No. 0074-450511

Group Art Unit 2624
Confirmation No. 7087

Claims 8-12, 18-20, and 22-24

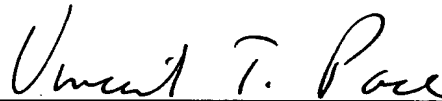
Claims 8-12, 18-20, and 22-24 were allowed by the Examiner in the Official Action.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims of this application are in condition for allowance. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and allow the application in the light of the amendments to the claims and the remarks presented hereinabove.

Respectfully submitted,

DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL AND SKILLMAN
A Professional Corporation
Attorneys for Applicant



Vincent T. Pace
PTO Registration No. 31,049

Enclosures

Tel: 215-563-4100
Fax: 215-563-4044
email: vpace@ddhs.com